

beyond traditional programs and truly entertains the convergence of several criminal justice issues and establishes the clear goal of crime prevention, rather than trying to battle problems after they have become widespread.

The missions and strategies for the 1999 Committee structure are as follows:

Drug Control and Substance Abuse - to encourage proactive and innovative programs and methodologies that reduce and discourage drug use and associated problems.

Juvenile Justice Prevention - to prevent juveniles from becoming delinquent by demonstrating to the citizenry that *“prevention works.”*

Juvenile Justice Intervention - to prevent further undisciplined and delinquent behavior by providing resources for juveniles that become involved in the court process and their families.

Information Systems - seeks data quality and criminal justice agency integration via information and technology that will maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal justice process.

It is believed that this change in philosophy will generate a new vitality and renewed focus on pressing criminal justice issues, deterrence of youth involvement in crime, and reinforcement of the concept of comprehensive involvement by the public as the major stakeholder in their own welfare.

The priorities of the Governor's Crime Commission were defined in a two-step process: (1) identification of the problem and (2) identification of actions to combat those problems. From this perspective, new missions and strategies have been developed and from those strategies program and funding priorities have been established.

In the spring of 1997, the Crime Commission undertook the task of examining problems that they believed were major contributing factors to crime within the state. An open-ended survey allowed for the free expression and ranking of identifiable problems and the data was collected and the results were used as a means of setting the agenda for the next legislative year.

II. The Strategy Development Process and Coordination Issues

The Governor's Crime Commission has consistently maintained a standing committee structure, working separately as well in unison, as the chief advisory body to the Governor and the Secretary of Crime Control and Public Safety on criminal justice issues in North Carolina. North Carolina traditionally has relied on the basic Law Enforcement, Corrections, Judicial, and Information Systems alignment to develop its overall Drug Strategy.

Although the basic idea remains intact, the designated committees and their responsibilities have changed in their actual makeup and scope, reducing the number of standing committees from seven to five and incorporating individual advisory panels to each committee to assist during the priority planning and grant application review process.

The members of these committees are criminal justice professionals from all facets of the criminal justice system, members of federal, state, and local governments, and representatives of the general public. These appointees are selected based upon their record of service to their communities, expertise, and willingness to engage issues placed before them. Of the five committees, four may recommend programs that may be funded with Drug Control and Systems Improvement (DCSI) funds.

These four new committees include Drug Control and Substance Abuse, Juvenile Prevention, Juvenile Interdiction, and Information Systems. The two juvenile panels will also have complete access to Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention funds for specialized projects as well. These panels meet approximately four times each year to discuss issues indigenous to their area of concentration.